

### PURIFICATION OF SEWAGE.

A valuable contribution to the literature on the disposal and purification of sewage has just been issued by the United States Geological Survey as Water-Supply and Irrigation Paper No. 185, investigations on the purification of Boston sewage, with a history of the sewage-disposal problem; by C. E. A. Winslow and E. B. Phelps. The volume of sewage discharged by modern communities is so large and the character of all kinds of sewage is always so objectionable that the so-called sewage-disposal problem becomes, from the economic as well as the sanitary point of view, one of the most serious with which American cities have to deal. It is of vital importance to every community to secure such a disposal of obnoxious sewage as will avoid the creation of any insanitary focus or foci in the environment, or any infringement of the laws of hygiene and sanitation.

The investigations described in this publication were made at the Sanitary Research Laboratory and Sewage Experiment Station of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under the direction of Prof. William T. Sedgwick. The station at which the work was carried on is situated on the line of the main trunk sewer of the South Metropolitan district of Boston at a point where it contains the sewage of about half a million people. At this station pumps were installed and tanks were constructed for tests of the various methods of sewage purification. The results of this work and the practical conclusions that have been drawn are given in Water Supply Paper No. 185, which may be obtained on application to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. These results are by no means applicable merely to large cities, but contain lessons of practical value to all communities having to deal with the ever present sewage disposal problem. The description of the experiments is preceded by a careful and elaborate historical review of the whole sewage-disposal problem from its origin in the wide adoption of the water-carriage system up to the present time, when that system has become practically universal. This interesting review can not fail to be of the highest value to expert engineers, sewage commissioners, and cities all over the United States, especially to those numerous small communities that are confronted, perhaps for the first time, with a problem that means so much for the health as well as the finances of the citizens.

### COLONIES FOR EPILEPTICS.

To the editor of the State Journal: As you are aware, great advances have been made in recent years in the care and treatment of epileptics. It has been found that their welfare and that of the community is best promoted by providing special institutions for them on the colony or village plan. There are a number of such colonies in Europe and at least fifteen of our own states have made or are making colony provision for indigent and semi-dependent epileptics. By means of colony life the condition of these persons may be improved and their capacity for self-support increased.

There being in California no special provision for epileptics, representative citizens of Los Angeles met on October 29, 1906, to consider the needs of this unfortunate class. At this meeting a committee was appointed to investigate and report upon the condition of epileptics throughout the state as a step toward bettering this condition. This committee is now engaged in gathering data concerning the number of epileptics in this State, both in and out of institutions. All medical practitioners are urged to send to this committee the names or initials of any epileptics whom they may know, together with whatever information may seem to be of value concerning them.

As chairman of this committee, I am writing to you to enlist your cooperation in furthering the matter. If you will be so kind as to give space to this communication I shall be greatly indebted to you.

Yours very truly, ROSS MOORE, M. D.

## COUNTY SOCIETIES.

### SONOMA COUNTY.

The Sonoma County Medical Society held its first meeting of the year in Dr. S. S. Bogle's office, Santa Rosa, on January 10th. Notwithstanding the inclement weather, a generous number were present. The officers-elect for the ensuing year were installed: President, Dr. J. R. Swisher, of Healdsburg; Vice-President, Dr. J. H. McLeod; Secretary, Dr. R. M. Bonar; Treasurer, Dr. Lizzie Lain, all of Santa Rosa.

The society is in a prosperous condition, and the past year has been replete with interest. A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Annabel McG. Stuart, the retiring President, who, notwithstanding the arduous demands of a large practice, did not miss a meeting during her term of service, nor waver in her zeal in the interests of a united profession in Sonoma county.

To Dr. G. W. Mallory, who has been our Secretary since the society was organized, over three years ago, belongs the credit, more than to any other member, for our flourishing condition. He has worked earnestly and faithfully for our welfare and could always be depended upon to be there.

The feature of the evening was a paper by Dr. E. M. Yates, on "Endometritis." After the discussion, in which every member took an active part, the society adjourned.

R. M. BONAR,  
Secretary.

### ORANGE COUNTY.

The Orange County Medical Society held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening, January 8th. State Senator Anderson requested advice in regard to the bill to regulate the practice of "Naturopathy." A Committee on Legislation was appointed and instructed to keep our representatives advised in regard to such legislation. The committee has written them that this bill, if passed, would defeat the objects of all past medical legislation, inasmuch as it would admit all pretenders to practice. Dr. Dobson read a very interesting paper on a greatly neglected subject, "Ocular Manifestations in Cerebral Lesions," showing how this symptom could not be utilized without a thorough knowledge of the anatomy of the brain and the origin of the ocular nerves.

H. S. GORDON,  
Secretary.

### SHASTA COUNTY.

Shasta County Medical Society met in regular session January 19th at the office of Dr. R. F. Wallace. President C. E. Reed in the chair. There were present Drs. Reed, Wallace, Bauter, White, Lawry, Edgcomb and Weber. Communication was received from Dr. George Worthington asking to be transferred to San Francisco County Medical Society, and Dr. George Watt to Yolo Society. Granted. The communication from Dr. Robert T. Legge inviting the society to have its July meeting at McCloud was accepted.

The Secretary and Treasurer's report for the past year was accepted. Resolution reaffirming vaccination was adopted as follows:

Resolved, That Shasta County Medical Society hereby reaffirms and emphasizes its belief in proper vaccination as a protection against smallpox and that